

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SECTO 03080 030003Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 H-01
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O 021109Z APR 78 ZFF-4
FM USDEL SECRETARY IN LAGOS
TO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTO 03080

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CATER, JIMMY)
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: BRIEFING OF FRONTLINE STATES ON LAGOS
DISCUSSIONS

REF: SECTO 3079

THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF ZAMBIA, BOTSWANA AND
TANZANIAN U.N. REPRESENTATIVE SALIM HAVE ASKED THAT
THEIR HOME OFFICES BE BRIEFED ON NAMIBIA TALKS HERE.
ACCORDINGLY ACTION ADDRESSEES SHOULD SEEK IMMEDIATE
APPOINTMENTS AT HIGHEST APPROPRIATE LEVELS AND MAKE
THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

1. PRESIDENT CARTER HAD EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS
ON NAMIBIA WITH NIGERIAN CHIEF OF STATE OBASANJO. IN
ADDITION SECRETARY VANCE MET TWICE WITH THE FOREIGN
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PAGE 02 SECTO 03080 030003Z

MINISTERS OF ZAMBIA, BOTSWANA AND NIGERIA AND WITH
TANZANIAN U.N. REPRESENTATIVE SALIM.

2. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THE NAMIBIA
NEGOTIATIONS HAD REACHED A CRUCIAL STAGE AND THAT
IT WAS IMPORTANT TO ACT NOW, LEST SOUTH AFRICA PROCEED
WITH AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT AND LEST ADDITIONAL EVENTS

SUCH AS THE KAPUWO ASSASSINATION AND THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNGA FURTHER COMPLICATE OUR EFFORTS.

3. WHILE STATING THAT THE FINAL DECISION BELONGED TO SWAPO, THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FRONT LINE STATES STATED THEIR GENERAL SUPPORT FOR THE CONTACT GROUP PROPOSALS. ON ONE CONTENTIOUS ISSUE, WALVIS BAY, THEY ALSO EXPRESSED THEIR SUPPORT FOR LEAVING THE ISSUE UNTIL LATER BUT INQUIRED ABOUT A FORMULA WHICH WOULD MEET SWAPO CONCERN THAT THE FIVE WOULD BE ALOOF TO WALVIS BAY ISSUE IF THE ISSUE IS LEFT TO LATER NEGOTIATIONS.

4. THE SECRETARY OUTLINED THE APPROACH CONTAINED PARAGRAPH 2 REFTEL. (YOU MAY DRAW UPON THAT PARA, STATING HOWEVER THAT THIS IS THE SUBSTANCE, NOT NECESSARILY THE LANGUAGE, WE MIGHT USE.) THE SECRETARY ALSO STATED THAT WHILE THE U.S. WAS PREPARED TO MAKE SUCH A STATEMENT, WE COULD NOT COMMIT THE OTHER FOUR CONTACT GROUP COUNTRIES. IT WAS OUR INTENTION TO CONSULT THE CONTACT GROUP MEMBERS ON MONDAY, APRIL 3 AND WE HOPED TO COMMUNICATE WITH SWAPO ON APRIL 4.

5. THERE WAS A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF THE CONTROL OF POLICE BUT THERE APPEARED TO BE AGREEMENT THAT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SECTO 03080 030003Z

SWAPO CONCERNS ON POLICE COULD BE MET BY THE TWO MEN IN A JEEP CONCEPT WHICH IS WITH POSSIBLE UNDER CURRENT PROPOSALS.

6. THERE WAS AN EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION OF NEXT STEPS. THE SECRETARY STATED OUR INTENTION TO BRING NAMIBIA TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL ABOUT APRIL 10. WHILE RECOGNIZING THE VIEW OF FRONT LINE REPRESENTATIVES THAT THERE ARE DISADVANTAGES TO A SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING BEFORE SWAPO IS FULLY ON BOARD, SECRETARY VANCE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT IT IS LIKELY THAT ONLY THE NEED TO TAKE FIRM POSITIONS WILL FORCE SWAPO AND SOUTH AFRICA TO FACE UP TO THE ISSUES. IN ADDITION HE RESTATED FACTORS IN PARAGRAPH 2 ABOVE ON THE URGENCY OF THE SITUATION.
VANCE

DISSIMINATION COORDINATED WITH SS/O PER KENT.

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